

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Torrance, California
January 23, 1940

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on

Tuesday evening, January 23, 1940 at 7:45 P. M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Murray moved that the minutes of a regular meeting held January 9, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Union Oil Company of California, reporting no permits to place pipe lines or conduits were issued under the portion of County of Los Angeles Franchise Ordinance No. 1501 lying within the City of Torrance for the six months' period ending December 31, 1939.

A communication was read from the General Petroleum Corporation of California, reporting no pipe line laid during the six months' period ending December 31, 1939 under County of Los Angeles Franchise Ordinance No. 781.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization regarding the overflow of the WALTERIA Water Supply tank, stating that Neece Avenue had been flooded on an average of once each week. It was stated further that holes had been dug in the pavement, leaving the streets in a bad condition. An investigation of both matters was requested.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to direct a letter to Mr. Quandt, owner of the water works serving the community, requesting him to meet with the City Council as a whole and make some effort to remedy the situation.

A communication was read from A. Heglin, requesting an investigation of the lighting condition at the intersection of Carson Street and Western Avenue, adding that adequate lighting is necessary for protection to his business located at 1669 Carson Street.

Councilman McGuire moved that the matter be referred to the Street Lighting Committee for investigation and report. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from F. G. Hodges (Hodges' Furniture Store) and K. E. Brolliar (Torrance Cycle and Fix-it Shop), requesting that a loading zone be painted on one parking space, about midway between 1339 and 1341 El Prado.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Police Department for investigation and report. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman McGuire added that numerous requests had been received to paint loading zones in the business district. Councilman Powell said also that a number of merchants had complained about persons parking their automobiles in front of places of business for long periods at a time.

Mayor Tolson advised that there is a one hour parking ordinance covering some of the streets in the business district, although, he added, it had not been enforced very rigidly the past few years.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Assistant City Engineer, expressing thanks to the City Council, City Officials and employees for the floral expression of their sympathies upon the loss of his mother.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, requesting that someone be appointed to represent the City Council

on a committee to handle all details pertinent to publicity and promotion of the forthcoming 1940 National Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament, the committee being composed of Dean Sears, Alden Smith, L. J. Gilmeister, R. J. McCallum, Mike Straszer and Dale Riley.

Councilman Murray moved that City Clerk Bartlett be appointed to represent the City Council on the committee. The motion failed to carry for want of a second.

Mayor Tolson moved that Councilman Murray, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, be appointed to represent the City Council on a committee to handle all details pertinent to publicity and promotion of the forthcoming 1940 National Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

An investigating report was read from Chief Stroh, recommending that the City of Torrance install boulevard stops on Prairie Avenue at 174th Street and 182nd Street as a means of regulating traffic on Prairie Avenue in the vicinity of Prairie Avenue school. Chief Stroh also recommended that an ordinance be passed regulating parking facilities for doctors and taxi cabs.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draft an ordinance to comply with the request. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$250.00 be made for 150 yards fertilizer for parks. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:00 P.M. bids were opened for construction of a concrete rail top box culvert at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and 236th Street in the following order.

BIDDER

John S. Mitchell
1238 South Ferris Avenue
Los Angeles, California

BID

\$925.00

A certified check in the amount of \$100.00 accompanied the bid.

Vido Kovacevich
5400 Imperial Highway
South Gate, California

\$1,195.00

A bidders bond in the amount of \$300.00 accompanied the bid.

Griffith Company
502 Los Angeles Railway Building
Los Angeles, California

\$1,100.00

A bidders bond in the amount of \$120.00 accompanied the bid.

Julio Tomei Construction
4737 Orion Avenue
Van Nuys, California

\$1,500.00

A certified check in the amount of \$150.00 accompanied the bid.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bids be referred to the City Engineer and City Attorney for examination and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1374

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASING AND
OPERATING OF BUSES FOR CARRYING PASSENGERS

Councilman McGuire moved that Resolution No. 1374 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Young recommended that the request of J. W. Venable, Charles Frye and Peter Diller for grading of Ocean Avenue north of Highway 101 to its full width of fifty feet for at least one thousand feet be denied, in that, he said, a serviceable road serves residents for approximately three hundred feet on Ocean Avenue north of Highway 101. He said there are no residents beyond the three hundred feet of serviceable roadway. Answering Councilman Powell's question, who wondered if building is anticipated, Engineer Young said it is customary to wait until there is some definite indication before building a road.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this communication be filed for future reference. Councilman McGuire seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$63.60 be made for an adding machine for the Recreation Department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Attorney McCall presented for the consideration of the City Council a draft of a letter addressed to the Railroad Commission, urging the granting of the certificate applied for by Asbury Rapid Transit System to operate a bus service between the intersection of Narbonne Avenue and U.S. Highway 101 and 945 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California. The letter also stated that the City of Torrance proposes to operate busses as a temporary solution to the transportation emergency, but that said municipal bus service will be discontinued if and when said certificate is granted to the Asbury Rapid Transit System.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested the matter be deferred until the adjourned meeting to be held January 24, 1940, which suggestion was approved.

Mayor Tolson announced that the Railroad Commission Meeting with Asbury Rapid Transit System had been postponed to Friday, January 26, 1940 at 10:00 A. M.

In the matter of requests for street lights, Mr. Butterfield, City Electrician, recommended that the Edison Company be authorized to install bracket or overhead lights at (1) Dominguez Street and Acacia Avenue and (2) Acacia Avenue and Maricopa Street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this recommendation be complied with. Councilman McGuire seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman McGuire moved that the request for a light at the corner of Western Avenue and Carson Street be investigated at the same time.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A gentleman from Walteria spoke in behalf of Mr. J. W. Venable, stating that Mr. Venable had an opportunity to sell his property on Ocean Avenue, but that the present narrow condition of the street, making it impossible to turn an automobile around, would naturally prolong the sale and detract from the property.

Mayor Tolson reported the bus service beginning Thursday, January 25, 1940 will serve WALTERIA residents directly to 945 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, and that fares will be charged.

There was a little discussion relative to fares. Mayor Tolson advised a schedule had been filed with the Railroad Commission setting the fares, which schedule would be used beginning Thursday morning.

Mr. Pruitt raised the question as to whether or not the City could charge fares for passengers outside the corporate limits of the City of Torrance. Mayor Tolson advised that a municipal bus can do so.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, McGuire, Murray, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:25 p.m., upon motion of Councilman McGuire, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to January 24, 1940 at 4:30 p.m.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved


Mayor of the City of Torrance